# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007
IMPORT OF TEA
Singh Shri Ganesh

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to import tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the status of import and export of tea in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb the import of tea and increase the production of tea?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.36 FOR ANSWER ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2007 REGARDING "IMPORT OF TEA"

(a): No, Sir. However, under the present Foreign Trade Policy, export and import of tea are freely allowed.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) : The details of import and export of tea in the country during the last three years are as under:-

| Year | Export | | Import | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Qty. (M.Kgs) | Value(Rs.crores) | Qty.(M.Kgs.) | Value(Rs.crores) |
| 2003-04 | 183.07 | 1636.99 | 11.34 | 66.23 |
| 2004-05 | 205.81 | 1924.71 | 32.53 | 145.15 |
| 2005-06 | 196.67 | 1793.58 | 17.41 | 102.77 |

(d) : Import of tea into the country is insignificant. The Government also issued a new Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 2005 under the provisions of Tea Act, 1953 on 1.4.2005 prescribing strict norms for import and export of teas.

In order to improve production and productivity of tea in the country, Tea Board is already implementing a number of plan schemes for development of the sector under which financial/technical assistance is provided to the tea industry. In addition, Government has also approved setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund for financing replantation/rejuvenation activities aimed at improving the age profile of old tea bushes which will result in increase of productivity and production of tea and improvement in quality.